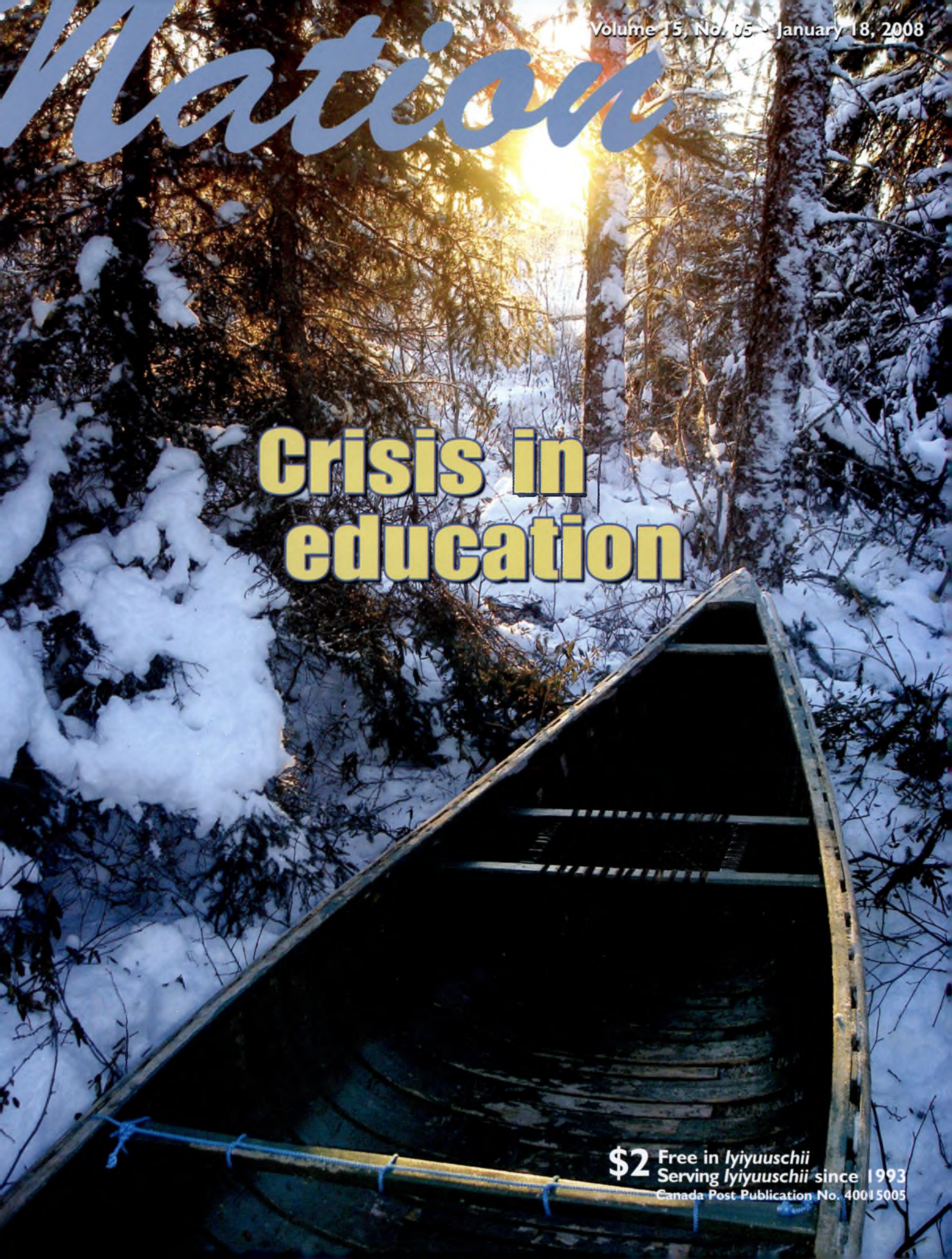
Nation
Volume 15, No. 05 - January 18, 2008



Crisis in education

$2 Free in *Iyiyuuschii*
Serving *Iyiyuuschii* since 1993
Canada Post Publication No. 40015005

Rezolution Pictures would like to thank Chief Josie Jimiken and the community of Nemaska for their help in the production of the documentary film "The Last Explorer" for APTN. The Last Explorer is a film about a Cree guide from James Bay, George Elson, who led two famous expeditions to the interior of Labrador in 1903 and 1905.

The community of Nemaska was welcoming and extremely helpful to our film crew while we were up there in September and again in December. It was a pleasure to work with them all. To express our gratitude, we flew up over 40 children's gifts for the Christmas give-away in December. Air Creebec was kind enough to offer free shipping. We hope that the gifts help put a smile on their faces.

Our children's health

For many of our readers, especially those of you who are parents, this will be a difficult issue of *the Nation* to read. At least, it should be.

Too often we find ourselves reporting on stories that involve drug and alcohol abuse, broken families, violence and suicide – or combinations of all of the above. This edition of your newsmagazine seems to go beyond our average line-up of depressing stories involving the Cree Nation's young people.

As *the Nation* reports on page 10, the year 2007 ended with a crisis at Mistissini's Voyageur Memorial School. A male student confessed he had twice intended to bring a firearm to school to use against those he thought of as bullies before committing suicide. We are thankful and relieved he was talked out of these acts by a fellow student. Teachers, administrators and community leaders struggled to find the right response to what could have been a horrific school shooting of the sort we have seen elsewhere in North America in recent years.

The New Year began with the suicide of a young man from the same community. Psychiatric professionals are preparing a report on his case so that we might all better understand what is driving more and more youth to attempt suicide, and increasingly succeed.

A third story in this issue concerns the devastating drop-out rate of high school students in Eeyou Istchee. The prospects for the Cree economy and the future of the Cree Nation are directly tied to the educational success of our young people. If only a small fraction of Cree students manage to graduate from high school – to say nothing of the necessity for post-secondary education – the future is dim indeed.

All these stories are directly related. Poor school attendance and achievement, drug and alcohol use, victimization, sexual abuse – they affect all kinds of families in all Cree communities.

Experts and community leaders have already made the case for greater psychiatric, police and support services directed toward our youth. Those resources will be welcome. More importantly, we believe, are the changes needed to be made at home.

A common thread that connects far too many of these stories is the neglect that children have repeatedly been shown by their own parents. Inevitably, this neglect evolves into terribly self-destructive behaviour that has huge impacts on the rest of the community.

By now we all know why this problem exists. Radical social and technological change over the course of a single generation has created a disconnection between the lives of our parents and those of our children. And, of course, the generations of parents who were educated in residential schools learned plenty about abuse and despair, but not of love and caring.

But it's not enough to blame the past. If we want a better future for our kids, parents need to take action in the present.

Parents need to be involved in all aspects of their children's lives. From homework to sports, to friends, fun and how to handle conflict, our mothers and fathers – to say nothing of grandparents, aunts and uncles – must once again become much more hands-on in the raising of their kids. Psychiatrists and social workers are great as stop-gap measures, but they can never replace the love of a mom or a dad.

Another form of parental love is discipline. Children who never know what the limits are will keep pushing and misbehaving until they find them. If parents never establish and consistently enforce those limits, eventually, society will.

There is a crisis affecting our youth that must be addressed by all branches of Cree society, beginning at home.

Contents

editorial

Our children's health 3

rez notes

Fog and other predictions 4

news

Debate rages over Nunavik deal 5

Mistissini tragedies 7

In brief 9

feature

Mistissini's wake-up call 10

Drop out, lose out 13

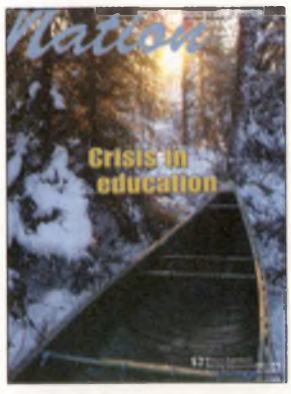
Letters 15

Foundations 22

Scamming Residential School Survivors 23

Under the Northern Sky

I found my toboggan 25



cover photo:
Lisa Roth

rez notes

Fog and other predictions

by Sonny Orr

Looking outside one morning early January, I couldn't see much. Some mysterious ultra-thick cloud saturated with tiny see-through snowflakes, commonly called snow fog, had dropped a blanket over the land that would blind us for days.

Wow, snow fog. What next? Ice tornados that will be eventually coined "upside down ice cream cones"?

It seems that even the impossible is no longer implausible when it comes to this year's weird weather patterns. Who would have thought that the temperature would get so nipply in California, eh? How about those poor (but economically rich, I must add) townships having to weather the burden of 100-plus centimetres of the good old white stuff, then the same amount in liquid format.

Enough ranting about the obvious truth: the weather can mess things up.

Think about it: flustered airline ticket agents, dangerous road conditions, cancelled school openings. I'm telling you right now, the start of a new world of delays and headaches for the airline industry is forecasted.

Increased ground travel and huge anti-fog headlights will become standard issue for the north. Small early warning radar systems will have to be installed in vehicles north of Matagami to avoid hitting caribou by the hundreds, thereby not only wiping out small herds but lessening any chance of getting insurance for our vehicles.

Let me finetune that forecasting antenna. At the local level, text messaging will be the only way people will talk with each other during hockey season's final games, just to keep minimalistic communication channels open for rival fans or else all hell will break loose at a local tournament brawl in the stands. Wait, it's getting foggy again.... (more static).

The summer softball tournament will be won by a small community by default due to a surprise drug testing conducted by local officials just to legitimize the sport and cut out that crap (whatever is consumed, whichever way) from the game for the remaining season... (radio static hisses in the background).

Someone paddles upriver on the Rupert just to make a point that hey, we don't always have to go with the flow. The first gay marriage between a man and a woman will occur (both being gay of course). The first sewing contest will heat up when a pair of moccasins will be created in under three minutes at a week-long tournament by an 80-year-old man.

Curling will become fashionable again for men with brooms and beer mugs. For the curlers a new helmet will be invented, with beer can holders and tubes attached (wait a minute...).

Nemaska will actually be recognized as the centre of the Cree universe when the Grand Chief declares that a mansion will be created out of trees harvested from EM-1 and call it the white *waskagan*.

A talented Cree couple will be banned from the international square dance finals when it is learned that they always drink a mixture of Labrador tea and green tea just before the competition. The Deputy Grand Chief will start a new dance sensation to a fiddled version of "I Shot the Sheriff."

Eastmain will create a new fastball pitch called the dry run, slowing the ball down so much that the batter will just swing anyways and pop it every time into the pitcher's glove.

A sasquatch will appear in Umujiak demanding gasoline for its stolen generator and television satellite receiver. Chisasibi will relocate again, this time to Loon Islands... Oops, lost my connection.

the Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications

EDITORIAL BOARD
W. Nicholls, L. Stewart, N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Will Nicholls

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Steve Bonspiel

IYIYUU AYIMUUN EDITOR
Brian Webb

COPY EDITOR
Lyle Stewart

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
A. German, C. MacKinnon, X. Kataquapit, S. Orr

PHOTOGRAPHY
S. Bonspiel, D. Valade, N. Diamond, W. Nicholls

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES
Linda Ludwick

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Danielle Valade

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Claire MacKinnon

LAYOUT & PRODUCTION
R. Lawson

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:
The Nation PRODUCTION OFFICE
4529 CLARK, #403
MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3
EDITORIAL & ADS
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914
The Nation HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0
www.beesum-communications.com
E-MAIL ADDRESS:
Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com
news@beesum-communications.com
Ads: ads@beesum-communications.com
Classifieds: beesum@beesum-communications.com

2007 WINNER CCNA BETTER NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

QCNA AJRQ

RÉSEAU SÉLECT

Magazines Canada

SUBSCRIPTIONS
INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS:
$45 PLUS TAXES
ABROAD: INDIVIDUALS: $70 U.S.
ABROAD: INSTITUTIONS: $85 U.S.
PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS
PRINTED BY IMPRIMERIE LEBONFON

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005
ISSN #1206-2642
The Nation IS A MEMBER OF:
THE JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,
CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,
MAGAZINES CANADA
QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN.
CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSN.
LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Magazine Fund toward our editorial costs.

Canada

Debate rages over Nunavik land claim deal

Small financial package, impact on Cree lands discussed

By Steve Bonspiel

The passing of Bill C-11 through the House of Commons this fall gives effect to the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, but it has been hotly debated as either helpful or hurtful on both sides of the Inuit/Cree spectrum.

In short, the agreement gives the Inuit more than $50 million for education and socioeconomic projects, title to offshore islands and royalty rights to future exploration in the mineral-rich areas.

In October, Senator Charlie Watt told a House of Commons committee that the deal, while protecting existing Inuit rights, does not go far enough financially to address the needs of his people.

"The agreement provides $50,671,460 for educational, social, cultural and socioeconomic needs of 10,000 individuals, which represents $5,067.15 per individual," Senator Watt told the House. "The agreement provides that that amount will be paid over a period of 10 years, which represents $506.71 yearly per individual. You cannot do too much with that amount of money."

As in the debate for the Paix des Braves in 2002, some Inuk feel a betrayal of sorts from their leaders with the implementation, by 2010, of this agreement.

"In 1993, Nunavut Inuit received, for a similar agreement, more than $1 billion for 17,000 individuals," Senator Watt continued. "This means $58,000 each. Why such a difference?"

Senator Watt is also concerned that Nunavik Inuit will have no right to challenge the agreement. Sections 2.7 and 2.8 of the agreement state that the Inuit; shall have no claim or cause of action based on the finding that any provision of this Agreement is invalid, and shall not challenge, or support a challenge to, the validity of any provision of this Agreement.

"Giving up judicial rights goes against the rule of law and our Constitution," he told the House.

Watt also had dire warnings for the amount of animals the Inuit would be limited to hunting during the 20-year agreement, which implements, for instance, a quota on Beluga harvesting.

"This provision is not a benefit; it is an unacceptable restriction," he said. "This agreement has major negative impacts on human beings and their constitutional rights."

The agreement is to be presented to the Inuit people in early 2008 through referendum consultations in each of the 14 communities.

Senator Watt cautioned that other grave concerns remain, such as Makivik Corporation's representation of the Inuit people, despite the absence of a power of attorney. He cited a lawsuit, called the "Inuit of Nunavut as represented by Nunavik Tunngavik, Inc." which calls into question NTI's representation.

"This situation puzzles me because Makivik plays an equivalent role to NTI, but for Nunavik Inuit," said Senator Watt. "The problem is that the government seems satisfied that Makivik represents Nunavik Inuit when it is time to extinguish existing

"This agreement has major negative impacts on human beings and their constitutional rights."

Senator Charlie Watt

Aboriginal rights. Does that mean that later, if Nunavik Inuit must sue the government, they must act individually and personally after they have lost existing Aboriginal rights collectively?

"Unfortunately, with Bill C-11 we have no more existing Aboriginal rights and the treaty ensures that we will never have them again."

Saskatchewan Senator Leonard Gustafson, meanwhile, was wholly in favour of the Bill.

"Clearly, the Inuit of Northern Quebec have proven that, given the opportunity, the sky is the limit," Senator Gustafson enthused. "Honourable Senators, it is now up to us to support Bill C-11, to give Nunavik Inuit the remaining tools and resources they need to reach for the northern star."

Cree Grand Chief Matthew Mukash is in full agreement with Bill C-11, despite the uncertainty raised by Senator Watt.

"In 2003 the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Nunavik Inuit entered into an Agreement relating to the Cree-Inuit Offshore Overlapping Interest Area," Mukash told the Senate. "Under this overlap agreement, a portion of the offshore area has been identified as being of common interest to the Inuit and the Cree.

"This is why the Grand Council of the Crees, Eeyou Istchee, has a direct interest in the successful adoption of this bill by the Senate," Mukash continued. "Indeed, should the bill not be adopted, both the Inuit and the Cree would lose the benefit of the formal recognition by government of the Aboriginal ownership of lands located in the overlap area, including joint Cree-Inuit ownership of the substantial land interests located in the joint Inuit-Cree zone. This is an outcome that we would not accept."

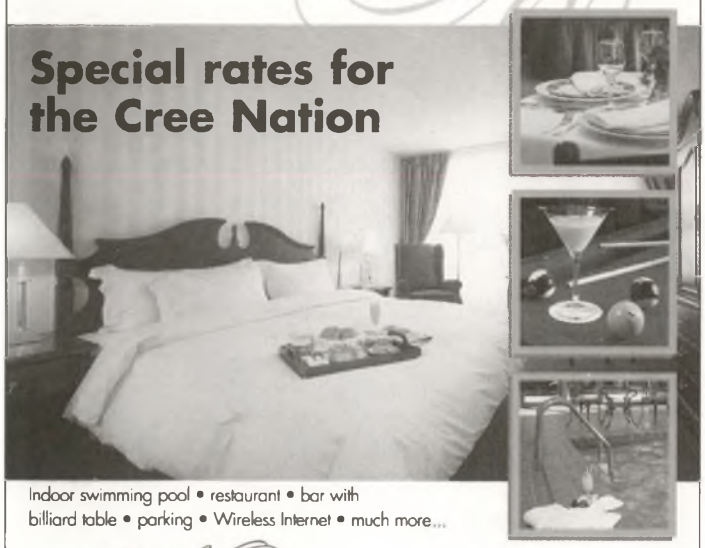
Mukash also recognized Senator's Watts concerns by saying, "he raises some important and serious issues," such as Nunavut law applying to Nunavik territory, but that unless the entire claims policy is re-written, the Bill must be passed without delay.

At one point Quebec Senator Serge Joyal called the Cree position under the Bill into question. Senator Joyal pressed Cree lawyer Robert Mainville for a clearer picture after Grand Chief Mukash said that the Crees are not part of the Bill, but they would have land rights through an understanding with the Inuit once it was signed.

"Then the only way you could be affected by this treaty between the Inuit and the government would be if there were

Downtown Montreal

Special rates for the Cree Nation



Indoor swimming pool • restaurant • bar with
billiard table • parking • Wireless Internet • much more...

Hôtel Maritime Plaza

1155, Guy Street, Montreal (QC) Canada H3H 2K5
Tel.: (514) 932-1411 — Fax : (514) 932-0446
E-mail : info@hotelmaritime.com
www.hotelmaritime.com
Toll free : 1 800 363-6255

The Cree Nation has been deeply moved by the passing of the beloved ***David Masty Sr.*** *on November 28th, 2007. David will be remembered as a caring man who dedicated most of his life to helping his People. His community of Whapmoogustui put their upmost trust in him as he served six and a half years as Chief. He had great relations with everyone, it did not matter if you were a Chief, hunter or janitor he greeted you with a smile and treated you with respect. David was devoted to his family and he took great pride in being out on the land. He will be missed.*

Our prayers and deepest sympathies go out to the Masty family and all who were blessed to have crossed paths with him.

ᐃᓕᓴᐍᐏᓐ ᑕᕿᓂᑎᓂ
Cree Regional Authority
Administration regionale Crie

ᐊᓂᕿᑯᓂᐏᓐ ᓄᑎᒋᐊᓂᐏᓐ ᐁᖏᒪᑐᐃᓐ
(ᐃᓕᓴᐍ ᑐᓂᐃ)
Grand Council of the Crees
(Eeyou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris
(Eeyou Istchee)

Norauto
SUZUKI

23, Route 111 Ouest, Amos
819-732-5352 ask for Mike

Have a wonderful and prosperous New Year 2008
ᑭᒪ ᓇᓐᓂ ᒥᔪᐃᓂᒃ ᐅ ᒐ ᐅᓂ ᐱᐅᓂ 2008

Norauto Suzuki. Your first car dealership entering Amos.

www.norautoamos.com

- More than 100 vehicles available
- Second credit chance
- Open on Saturday
- All services at the same place

a conflict of interpretation on the treaty between the Inuit and the government," said Senator Joyal. "Could the decision that might follow up an arbitration procedure or any other legal procedure affect you indirectly?"

"Indirectly, yes," said Mainville. "Theoretically, that could be possible. The Cree and the Inuit have mutually recognized in the overlap agreement their mutual Aboriginal interest and rights in that area. The Government of Canada, however, was hesitant to make that recognition formally. I cannot speak for the Government of Canada....but they are not prepared to formally recognize those Aboriginal rights in this instrument."

Mainville went on to stress that whatever royalties either party – Cree or Inuit received – will be shared equally with the other.

Mistissini: 3 dead over New Year's

By Steve Bonspiel

A string of incidents has resulted in the deaths of three Mistissini residents.

Police received a call around 6:30 am on New Year's Day; a youth had taken his own life. Out of respect for the family, *the Nation* is not publishing his name at this time.

"I felt sad," said Mistissini Police Investigator Derek Etapp. "Our first thought is about the family involved. We think of the kids, if they were married. We also think of why they did it...they were so young."

A psychologist was called in to speak to the officers about the incident.

The next morning the police were called to the scene of a massive house fire. Gary Shecapio, 29, died of asphyxiation in the blaze January 2 at 9:15 am.

"He had inhaled too much smoke and that was the reason for his death," said Etapp. "The Surete du Quebec from Chibougamau conducted that investigation."

Etapp said that the SQ's investigation revealed that it was an accident.

Later that day Elder Charlie Gunner passed away due to natural causes at the age of 82. Police received a call around 1:30 pm January 2.

People in the Native world say these things happen in threes, but it was still not easy to take, especially another suicide.

"It was very difficult for our people, it hit the community very hard," said Deputy Chief Kathleen Wootton.

A group of psychologists came into the community to assess the situation and to "work on trying to address social issues in our community, especially issues that concern the youth," said Wootton.

They are in the final stages of preparing their report. Shortly after the latest incidents occurred, Wootton said health professionals were immediately called in from down south to help.

"The problems stem from many different factors in the community," she said. "We have to own those problems and we have to stand together and work together to try and resolve these issues ourselves rather than look outside. It's time. We created the problems; it's us that have to work to resolve them."

Wootton said "violence within the community and bullying at the schools" are major problems. "When kids are in homes where there is a lot of drinking or drugs going on, they're not able to concentrate on their education," she added.

OUR YOUTH ARE CRYING OUT FOR HELP. I THINK IT'S TIME THAT CREE LEADERS AT THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL STAND UP AND TAKE NOTICE. WE NEED TO ADDRESS IT.

WE HAVE TO OWN THOSE PROBLEMS AND WE HAVE TO STAND TOGETHER AND WORK TOGETHER TO TRY AND RESOLVE THESE ISSUES OURSELVES RATHER THAN LOOK OUTSIDE.

Although other Aboriginal communities are afflicted with these problems, Wootton said most of the Cree Nation's problems can be traced directly back to the 1970s when the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was signed, ensuring massive flooding of plush green land, the drowning of large game and the contamination of the water system in a short period of time. It is hardly any wonder, she said, that the Cree Nation has never fully recovered from it.

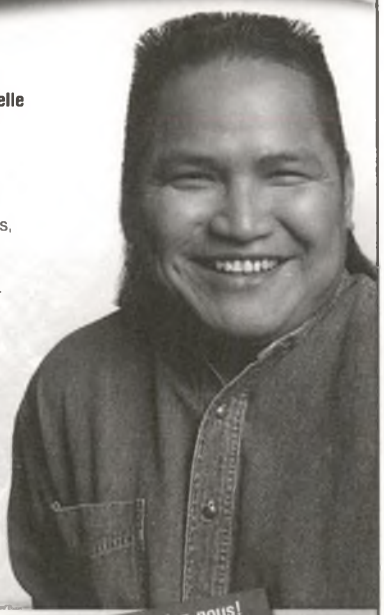
"For a long time these social issues have not been a priority within the Cree Nation," she said. "They are constantly being sidestepped. Problems like sexual abuse and drinking – we've turned a blind eye to all these issues. We have to deal with them now. Our youth are crying out for help. I think it's time that Cree leaders at the local and regional level stand up and take notice. We need to address it."

The report will presented to the band council in mid-January.

Wootton said she is not really sure what the solutions are, but that it will take the community as a whole to solve these problems. "There is no quick fix."

Des
SERVICES PROFESSIONNELS
adaptés à vos besoins.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
adapted to your needs.



Le centre de formation professionnelle de la Jamésie vous propose les programmes suivants :

mécanique industrielle,
mécanique d'engins de chantier,
mécanique de véhicules lourds routiers,
aménagement de la forêt,
travail sylvicole,
abattage et façonnage des forêts, etc.

The vocational training centre of Jamesie offers the following programs:

industrial mechanics,
heavy-duty equipment mechanics,
heavy-duty road vehicle mechanics,
forest management,
silvicultural work,
tree falling practices, etc.

Commission scolaire de la Baie-James

Partenaire de la commission scolaire Crie
Cree School Board's partner

Contactez-nous!
Contact us!
418 748-7621
option 2, ext. 3334

PETRONOR

Distributor of petroleum products and lubricants in all the James Bay Territory.

Services:
Delivery of petroleum products in bulk,
Aviation fuel, Rental of movable tanks

Products:
Unleaded gas, Clear and colored diesel,
Stove oil, Jet-A, 100LL and Lubricants

Addresses:
www.petronor.ca

Radisson Depot:
Tel: (819) 638-8222 Fax: (819) 638-7107

La Grande Rivière Airport:
Tel: (819) 638-4547 Fax: (819) 638-4547

EM-1 Construction Site:
Tel: (819) 865-2045 Fax: (819) 865-2039

Chisasibi Gas Station:
Tel: (819) 855-2427 Fax: (819) 855-3462

Administration Offices:
Tel: (819) 824-5505 Fax: (819) 824-5420

Gareau AUTO INC.

Jean-Claude Moreau
Your Northern
Sales Representative!

1100, 3e Avenue Est
Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 4P8
Bur.: (819) 825-6880
Fax: (819) 825-8980
1-877-625-6880

GM Canada
CHEVROLET
GM Canada Optimum VÉHICULES D'OCCASION

Proud to serve the Cree Nation!

Moosonee welcomes Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Moosonee is set to launch Dolly Parton's Imagination Library February 9. The project funds books for kids under five years old with the support of the Dollywood Foundation, the Invest in Kids organization and local Moosonee sponsors.

Children in the community will be able to register for the program and receive one free book per month until they turn five.

Moosonee moms Connie Hergott and Theresa Crown were inspired to bring the library to town to encourage a love of reading in their own children and others in the community. The need for such a program is especially great in Moosonee, as there is no local public library or bookstore in the rural town, which is only accessible by train or plane.

The legendary singer and actress Dolly Parton founded the Imagination Library in the U.S. in 1996 through her Dollywood Foundation.

"It is always wonderful to see a community come together around helping their children," Parton said. "Growing up, *The Little Engine That Could* was one of my very favourite books and I'm hopeful that it will mean a lot to kids in Moosonee. It sounds like the train is the main way that things get to their town, and I am excited that every month the train will be bringing children a new book to inspire and delight them."

Parton originally started the first Imagination Library in her home town of Sevierville, Tennessee. She wanted to do something about the low graduation rate there. After first trying to help kids at the secondary and then the primary school levels, she realized that it was ideal to reach kids even before they went to school.

It is their early memories of sharing a book with parents, which give kids a positive association with books for life, explains Canada's Regional Director of the Imagination Library, Catriona Sturton.

Hergott and Crown worked hard to get local funding from various donors in Moosonee, including Payukotayno James and Hudson Bay Family Services, Northern College, Moosonee Transportation Limited and Moosonee Lions, among many others in the community.

Currently the Imagination Library is in over 700 communities in the U.S. and since its launch in Canada in 2006 is already in 12 communities.

Sturton also encourages any interested communities to start the Imagination Library in their area. "You can make a difference in your community. You can help start something wonderful for the children where you live," she says. Sturton is ready to visit any interested communities to share her fundraising expertise.

For further information, contact The Imagination Library at 1-877-583-KIDS, ext. 293, or visit the following websites: www.investinkids.ca/imaginationlibrary or www.imaginationlibrary.com.

Nora Bernard's grandson charged with her murder

Police in Truro, Nova Scotia, have confirmed that the grandson of renowned First Nations activist Nora Bernard has been charged with first-degree murder in her death.

James Douglas Gloade, 24, was arraigned December 31.

Members of the Millbrook First Nation and the town of Truro remain deeply disturbed by the incident. "It's one of those situations that is unexplainable. It's hard to describe....other than hurt," said family friend Lloyd Johnson in the Kitchener Record January 9.

Truro Police Chief David MacNeil confirmed they believe that the accused was on street drugs at the time of Bernard's murder. He could not confirm whether Bernard was attempting to help her Grandson on a drug-related issue at the time of her death.

Gloade's preliminary hearing, where his trial date will be set, is expected in February.

Bernard spearheaded the campaign to win compensation for residential school survivors. In 2006, she won what has been referred to as the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history, with between $4 and $5 billion in compensation for over 79,000 residential school survivors.

Although the community remains upset about the tragedy, Chief MacNeil said many Elders now have at least some "piece of mind" knowing that the murder was not related to any backlash targeting those involved in the residential school survivors' settlement.

Pssst...

Have any information you'd like to share with *the Nation*? Feel like there's something the rest of the Cree Nation should know?

Well that's what *the Nation* is here for. Call us at 514-272-3077, and we'll look into your story. If you don't call us, your voice won't be heard!

feature

Mistissini faces wake-up call

Community shaken after student confesses to planning school shooting

By Will Nicholls and Lyle Stewart

Mistissini's Voyageur Memorial School was closed last November 26 after a student confided to a teacher that he had planned on two different occasions the previous September to bring a gun into the school and shoot certain students who had bullied him, and then turn the gun on himself.

Acting Principal Bjorn Olson closed the school for five days in order to put extra security in place and reassure teachers, students and parents.

According to a letter sent to community leaders in December, the boy was talked out of the attacks by another student. The boy said he was motivated by his newfound Christian faith to confess to a teacher in November.

The student was examined by a specialist in Montreal and judged to pose no further risk. The student said he welcomed the psychiatric attention as it would make him stronger and he had already gotten respect from other students for coming forward.

The boy has not returned to school since the confession.

The scare led to a series of meetings, the first with the teachers, staff and Mistissini Public Safety Department. It was decided then to develop an emergency plan for the school.

A second meeting was with teachers, staff and students and some parents December 3. Though 150 students attended only about 30 showed up the following day for classes. Other meetings to inform and consult religious leaders were held December 7 and 10.

Psychologists contracted by social services and the health clinic were present at these organized meetings.

According to a letter by the Mistissini clinic's four doctors to community leaders, the incident was a "wake-up call."

"The recent school situation has not come out of nowhere," the physicians wrote. "We need to react and support the children and parents in this community who have been asking for our help for a very long time. In Mistissini there has been a recent increase in the amount and degree of violence."

Ed Note: Only very rarely will the Nation *hold back an important story such as this one.* The Nation *editorial board believes in the public's right to know. We debated and discussed how to deal with such a sensitive and possibly panic-inducing incident. We also considered the Cree way of thinking. We did not wish to sensationalize this story but hope that by turning the focus on the community and its responses rather than about one person's actions we can help motivate positive change.* The Nation *will attend public meetings in Mistissini scheduled to address this incident and related issues and bring the results to all of our readers.*

The December 2 letter also referred to a recent stabbing death and "savage" assaults on young people. "It is only a matter of time," the letter warned. "The pressure continues to build, and at some point there will be a major explosion, where everyone in the community will be directly affected."

The incident provoked the school and community to take action against violence. A new committee, composed of police, doctors, social workers, teachers, administrators, Elders, band members, guidance counselors, church leaders and school support staff, was struck to look for comprehensive solutions. The Band Council has placed Elders in the school and is looking at hiring a full-time psychologist.

As well, the police department is considering assigning a full-time constable to befriend students and promote the prevention of drugs and alcohol use. The school has increased its secu-

rity at the school by placing a security guard at the door to sign students in and out of the building. Similar security may be installed in other public buildings, such as daycares, the sports complex, Cree School Board and Band Office.

Deputy Chief Kathleen Wootton of Mistissini Band Council told *the Nation* there would be a community meeting on this matter January 23. Wootton said the Band Office, the local high school, Cree School Board and the Cree Health Board have been working together on the file.

"The boy's reaction was a result of a lot of issues coming to a head," Wootton said. "It is because health issues were never a priority. It's hard to measure the emotional aspect of the community and set tangible goals. Our kids are paying because we didn't have the support and resources in place. We have to be more open about these type of issues both locally and regionally."

A report will be made to the Mistissini Band Council before the community meeting and the results shared with all.

Wootton said the community is also looking at having professionals such as a child psychologist, a social worker and an Aboriginal Youth Worker being hired full-time and in place at the local school.

"We need to have someone on a full-time basis for the youth," said Wootton. "The Cree Board of Health and Social Services has the resources to do this if we make it a priority."

She added the community is appealing to the CSB and CBHSS to work with them to make things happen for the benefit of all residents.

"I feel the way the school is now there has to be the political will and more to fix it. It will need the community and the leadership to correct the problem," Wootton said.

WE HAVE TO BE MORE OPEN ABOUT THESE TYPE OF ISSUES BOTH LOCALLY AND REGIONALLY.

The crisis followed on the heels of a warning last October 30 by all the Principals of the Cree School Board to Grand Chief Matthew Mukash and the Grand Council about the startling increase in drug and alcohol abuse among the youth of all nine communities.

"On a daily basis, we have to deal with these problems including: suspending students involved, meeting with parents, reporting these incidents to the Police, to Social Services and Youth Protection," the Principals wrote.

"The types of substances abused include: hard drugs including Crystal Meth, alcohol, gas/propane, liquid paper, etc. It is a fact that more and more young children are getting caught in these addictions, some as young as 8 years old."

The Principals recommended community curfews, prevention programs, help lines, and more recreational opportunities, among others, to help curb the epidemic of substance abuse. This will be a topic in a meeting in Mistissini on January 15.

In their letter, the Mistissini clinic doctors said children are inheriting this behaviour from parents and other family members.

"The use of drugs and alcohol by many people is an extremely large, widespread problem in the community," the doctors wrote. "People initially turn to alcohol or drugs to hide emotional pain and mental stress in their lives but it quickly spirals out of control. People who are drunk or high get involved in fights that require police intervention and can end up with them being jailed. People get hurt, and serious cases are transferred out of the community.

IT STARTED WITH THE CRY FOR HELP BY A CHILD. **LET US HEED THIS VOICE. THEY ARE THE FUTURE, LET'S DO IT FOR THEM.**

"Husbands and wives argue over alcohol and drugs, and it can result in conjugal violence. Children see this every day. They may be neglected because their parents are high or drunk. These are the same kids that then go to school hungry. They are often angry and they take it out on other kids at school. This is one of the sources of bullying in the community. If we do not change, the children will continue to carry on this cycle of self-damage. Intervention is needed to break this cycle," they continued.

The doctors stated that the majority of the cases they deal with are in some way related to mental health. "We see it as suicide attempts, depression, anxiety, sexual abuse, conjugal violence, physical and emotional abuse, substance abuse and child neglect."

They pointed out that though the suicide rates are the same as the rest of Quebec, suicide attempts are eight times higher. Suicide attempts are a cry for help the doctors said.

As with the Band Council the doctors point out a need for professional help on a regular basis.

The doctors feel that Mistissini can be a leader for other communities who may be dealing with similar problems.

"The issues brought up by this case have been simmering for a long time. They are worsening rather than improving. We can make a great difference by focusing our efforts together on this issue. We can greatly improve the lives of people in the community by offering them support at the individual and family level in a consistent and long-term way. This is really to improve the lives of the children. It started with the cry for help by a child. Let us heed this voice. They are the future, let's do it for them."

MANY SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS
ENTICE YOU
WITH FREEBIES.

IN THIS CASE, THE FREEBIE IS A MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION.

GENUINE CANADIAN MAGAZINE

Buy 2 get 1 FREE.
Over 175 magazines to choose from.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
www.1free.magazinescanada.ca or 1.866.289.8162

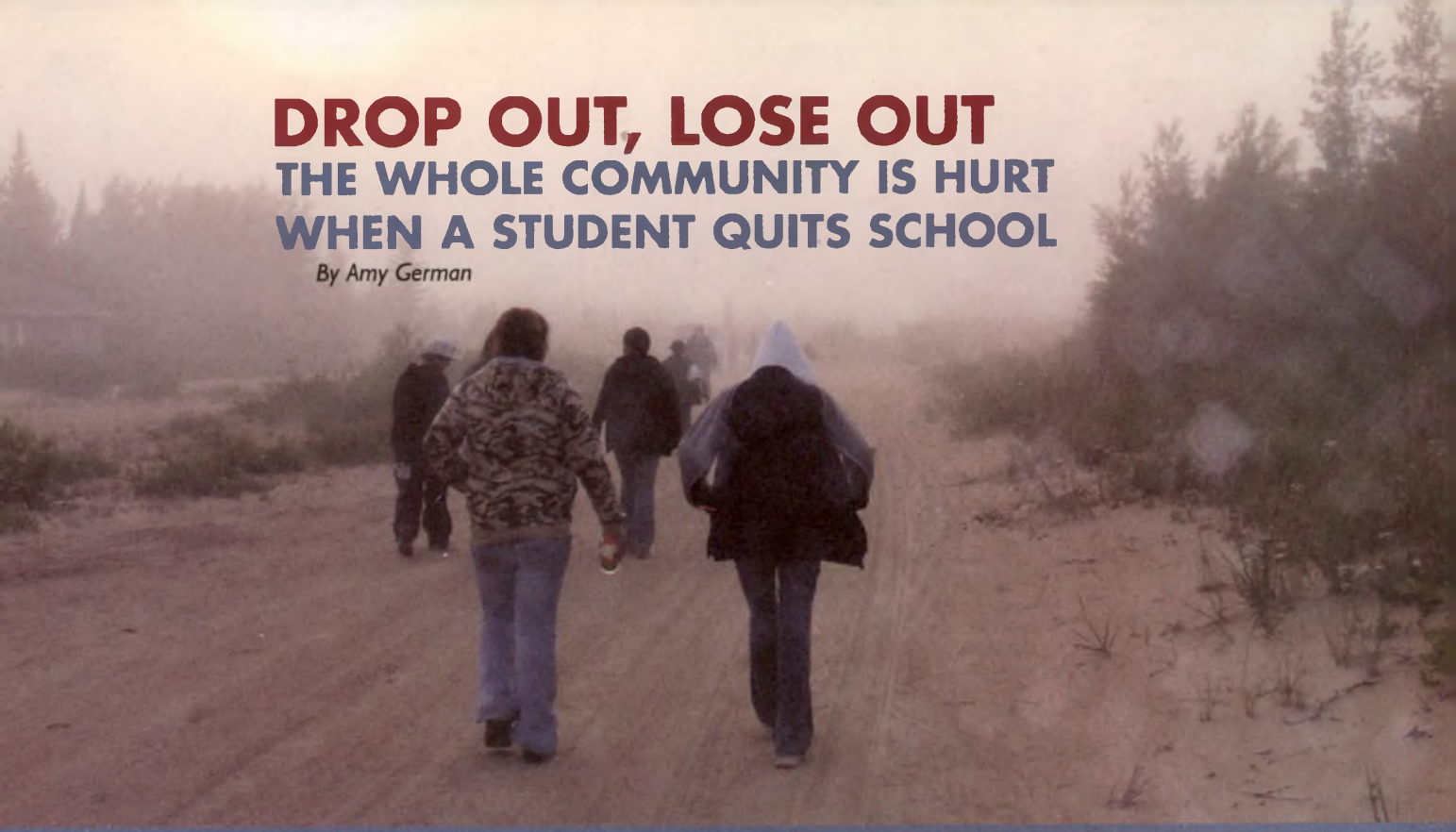
Special offer code: PAE8
Offer expires March 14, 2008

Magazines Canada

DROP OUT, LOSE OUT

THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS HURT WHEN A STUDENT QUITS SCHOOL

By Amy German



An extensive study suggests the Canadian economy is losing billions because of the high drop-out rate among young aboriginals. According to "The Potential Contribution of Aboriginal Canadians to Labour Force, Employment, Productivity and Output Growth in Canada, 2001-2017," almost half of Canada's Native teens do not finish high school, resulting in lifetimes of either underemployment or unemployment.

The research report was produced by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards in Ottawa. What the 180-page study boiled down to, according to co-author Andrew Sharpe, was that Canada's GDP could balloon by $71 billion within the next decade if aboriginals had the same graduation rate as the rest of the population.

"We calculated what would be the additional income of aboriginals if they had the same educational attainment that the non-aboriginals had in 2001," said Sharpe. "So, we are not saying that we are going to reduce the gap in educational attainment between the two groups. But, for 2017 we were just assuming that the aboriginals got the 2001 levels of educational attainment and that is a very, very optimistic assumption, it's not going to happen."

Harder to identify is why the high drop-out rate exists and what can be done about it.

"There is not the expectation in aboriginal communities that people will complete high school and go on to university as they would in the mainstream communities," said Sharpe. "Also the resources, often there is not enough resources devoted to high quality schools on reserves."

AFTER NINE YEARS IN SECONDARY, OF THE ORIGINAL 100 STUDENTS IN THE COHORT, ONLY 27 WILL HAVE GRADUATED AFTER NINE YEARS.

James Bay Cree communities are no exception to the high drop-out phenomenon, says Gordon Blackned, chairman of the Cree School Board. And those who do complete their secondary studies will often do so in a much longer period of time than is expected.

"Some kids are in school for five years, they go through five years of secondary. Some will do it in six years, some will do it in seven years, some do it in eight and some do it in nine," says Blackned.

A recent CSB statistical analysis showed that, from one initial cohort of 100 students in secondary one, 12 students graduated in a period of five years, Blackned observed. In that same cohort, at the start of the sixth year, 67 of those students on average would still be in school while 21 would have quit. After nine years in secondary, of the original 100 students in the cohort, only 27 will have graduated after nine years.

On an academic level, Blackned believes that the problem starts with language, but that it's a multifaceted issue.

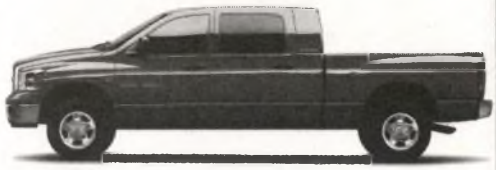
barrautechrysler.ca

DODGE NITRO

215, 3e Avenue
Val d'Or, Qc
J9P 1R7

T: 819-825-0880
F: 819-825-1540

RAM MEGA CAB



ᑲ ᕿᑕᓴ ᐅ ᒥᓂᓐᐃᑭᓐ, ᐊᑯ ᒪᑦ ᑲ ᑭᔅᑐᓴ ᐊᓐ ᑲ ᒪᓂᓂᓐᐃᑦ ᐊ ᐅᑎ ᒥᑕᓂᓐᐃᑦ ᐊᓐ ᐅᑎᓂᑦᑐᓴᑦ ᐊᓐ ᐅᑎᓂᑦᑐᓴᑦ.

AUTOMOBILE CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep BARRAUTE

Mention this ad and get a free remote starter with the puchase of any vehicle

Grand Caravan

Robert "Bob" Labrecque
cell: 819-860-4250
Yvon St-Pierre
Representatives

Serge Labrecque
Service

Jeep WRANGLER

barrautechrysler.ca

SABTUAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE
1 Elder David Neeposh Street
Waswanipi, Qc., J0Y 3C0
Tel: (819)753-4040, (819)753-2636
Fax: (819)753-2640
Toll Free: 1-866-921-4040

NEW PROGRAMS OFFERED IN WASWANIPI AT THE "SABTUAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE"

Program	Start	Hours	Deadline to register
Carpentry	February 04, 2008	1350	January 25, 2008
Hairdressing	March 03, 2008	1455	February 22, 2008
Assistance to Patients	March 10, 2008	630	February 29, 2008

Please note the deadline for registration for each program.

See your Education Consultant at the Sabtuan Continuing Education department in your community or call at the SRVTC (1-866-921-4040) for more information.

"Basically I guess that it's reading and writing and understanding the languages," he suggested. "We have got three languages: Cree, the second language is English and then French."

It is not only the issue of having to master three languages. "We find that the teaching of languages is one of the areas in which our teachers are lacking," said Blackned.

WE FIND THAT THE TEACHING OF LANGUAGES IS ONE OF THE AREAS IN WHICH OUR TEACHERS ARE LACKING

Under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the CSB set up its own teacher training program, but when they implemented the program they did not set a time limit on it so teacher trainees could take as long as they wanted to finish the program.

"Now we have people who are still in the course after 10 or 12 years. Because their program is stretched out that long, they have lost a lot of what they have learned when they come in to a regular class. It may be the teaching of language was learned in the first two or three years of their training so by that time they have pretty well forgotten how to teach language in school. Languages are the most important thing in any school. Kids have to learn the language, the grammar, the reading, the writing. That is very important."

The CSB teacher-training program is presently being revamped into a four-year program slated to begin next fall.

In looking for other solutions to the language issue, however, Blackned has grown frustrated.

"I have an argument that I often voice. I have been an educator for 30 years and it feels as though every time I voice this opinion it falls on deaf ears: Let's get rid of one of the second languages; let's stay with our language, our mother tongue, Cree, and teach only in one second language," said Blackned.

Other problems in Cree schools include absenteeism. According to the CSB statistics, the average secondary student misses 21 per cent of class time. The bulk of these absences can be attributed to skipping, as students will sleep in without their parents noticing because they are at work.

"When you are successful at skipping one day and nobody follows up on it you go two days and three days and so on," said Blackned. "That is the trend in our schools."

Even those who get dropped off at school by their parents will often disappear for the day instead of going to class or cut classes randomly and hang out in the hallways. The problem is slowly being curbed by hallway monitors who try to keep the kids corralled in the classrooms, but without the participation of the parents the school can not do much about kids who won't come to school.

Blackned also takes issue with parents who place more importance on hockey than school. Hockey tournaments mean that kids routinely miss successive Fridays and Mondays throughout the winter months to travel to games.

Though there are rules within the schools in regards to hockey and attendance, Blackned says parents do not respect them.

"If their marks are not good enough the policy states that they shouldn't go to the tournaments, but the parents allow them," said Blackned. "There are a lot of problems with parents and minimal parental involvement. It is something that we tried to tackle over the years and we have a difficult time trying to pinpoint ways to involve parents in the education of their children."

The Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Council is keen to find solutions to educational attainment problems because lack of training is a big drag on the local economy. Education was a hot topic for discussion during the September 18-20 CREECO conference on the future generation of workers within the communities.

LET'S GET RID OF ONE OF THE SECOND LANGUAGES; LET'S STAY WITH OUR LANGUAGE, OUR MOTHER TONGUE, CREE, AND TEACH ONLY IN ONE SECOND LANGUAGE.

According to Rodney Hester, CREECO business development co-ordinator, Blackned is correct to pinpoint poor parental involvement in the education of Cree youth.

"As parents, there is a responsibility there to enforce and encourage, playing their role and not to just leave it up to the school to educate their children," said Hester.

Another issue raised during the conference was the cost of dropouts from post-secondary programs.

"We invest a lot in our students' education," Hester observed. "We are not only paying for their tuition, books and travel but also for the staff to administer all of that. So to compound the cost and then, let's say, we have 50 students go out and 20 decide to drop out for whatever reason after one semester, what does that cost?"

DISTRIBUTION CENTER

NORD SELECT
Division de C. Caron inc.

PROPAC
Mordus de chasse et de pêche

HUNTING • FISHING
CAMPING • CLOTHING
CANVAS

FINANCING AVAILABLE
C.O.D. ACCEPTED

DISTRIBUTOR: NOR-WEST CANOE

THE #1 STORE FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS
DELIVERY TO JAMES BAY

4, Nottaway street, Matagami
nancy@nord-select.qc.ca
Tel.: (819) 739-3883
Fax: (819) 739-3885

WELCOME WACHIYA

Remington
Challenger
tasco
Benelli.
BROWNING
WINCHESTER
Husqvarna
Stoeger
Bushnell

RONA
C. CARON INC.

DELIVERY TO JAMES BAY
FINANCING AVAILABLE
WHOLESALERS

CABIN SPECIALIST

TRUSSES
REBAR
TREATED
WOOD

INTERIOR
SERVICES OF
DECORATION
DOORS
WINDOWS
HARDWARE

DIST: LAFARGE CEMENT

THE #1 STORE IN JAMES BAY
FOR 30 YEARS

CARPET
CERAMIC

MATAGAMI
9, Nottaway street
Tel.: (819) 739-2578
Fax: (819) 739-3619

LINOLEUM
FLOATING
FLOORS

Ford SOMA

Marc Cossette
Sales Rep.

Ford SOMA AMOS

Good Deals on
second hand pick-ups,
2005-2006,
low mileage

F150-4 doors

2008 Escape

2nd CHANCE CREDIT

Ford Dealer in Amos
42, 10e Avenue Ouest
Amos Qc, J9T 1W8
Tel : (866) 468-3205

Come and visit us
at Soma Auto

Tel : (819) 732-3205 Fax :(819) 732-8111

Where have all the parents gone?

The Albert Mianscum Memorial Arena was the site of the first Cross Conference Minor Hockey Gala hosted by the James Bay Minor Hockey League. I was very saddened to see that most of the teams that came to Ouje-Bougoumou, came without the support of the parents. This also goes for the parents in Ouje-Bougoumou.

Is this a trend that is being set for the future of our local minor hockey associations?

Our children need our support. I am a parent, who along with my late wife, has always went to the arena with our oldest son. That is when I got involved with minor hockey. Since that first time, my last two children have also received my support. I still get a thrill when I see our children play a sport that I love so much.

My oldest son, who is now 18, still wants me to go out and watch him play. I find this very rewarding that he would still want me around as a young adult. He has even approached me to set up a local junior team so that he and his friends can continue playing federated hockey. Last winter he even insisted that I drive him to Nemaska for the senior tournament even though he has his driver's permit.

Over the years here in Ouje-Bougoumou I have watched our parent participation dwindle to almost no parents in the arena. Children are dropped off or even worse have to walk to the arena alone.

As parents, we all have busy lives to attend to. But, does that mean we have to let slip by the one chance to spend time supporting our children in a sport that is almost considered a religion in the Cree world?

Some of you out there are now supporting your grandchildren by being at the arena, get your sons and daughters out there too and let them experience the joys that you had when you watched them play.

Our local minor hockey associations are working hard so that our children can play. Let us all support them and not use them has babysitters for our children.

Don't make your sons or daughters come home and tell you that they scored a goal or made a big save, go out and watch them. You will all get a kick out of it, may they be pre-novice or midget.

As parents let us all put life back into the arenas and our local hockey associations.

Thank you,
Real Lacroix
Supporter of the Ouje-Bougoumou Minor Hockey Association and full-time parent

Dogs feel the cold too.
Help them weather winter with
a warm dog house out of the wind
and lots of food and water.
Stop dog overpopulation. Visit IFAW's vet clinic in your community this coming spring.
IFAW
www.ifaw.org

Automne 2008

PROGRAMMES UNIVERSITAIRES pour les

PREMIÈRES NATIONS

- **Certificat en administration (temps partiel)**
- **Baccalauréat en éducation préscolaire et en enseignement primaire (temps plein)**

Offerts en français au campus de Val-d'Or

Certificats offerts à temps partiel dans les communautés si le nombre d'étudiants est suffisant (certificats en administration, en sciences comptables, en intervention auprès des groupes et en gestion, etc.)

Service Premières Nations :
- Aide à la réussite
- Aide psychosociale
- Bourses d'études
- Références aux services communautaires et universitaires
- Salon des Premières Nations

Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Date limite d'admission, 1er mars 2008
Application deadline, March 1st 2008

Information
Janet Mark
819 874-3837 poste 338
Sans frais – Toll free
1 866 891-8728 poste 338
janet.mark@uqat.ca

www.uqat.ca

Fall 2008

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS for

FIRST NATIONS

- **Certificate in Administration (Full time)**
- **Multidisciplinary Business Certificate (Full time)**
- **Bachelor of Social Work (Full time)**

Offered in English at the Val-d'Or campus

Part-time certificate are offered in communities if the number of registered students is sufficient (Certificates in Administration, in Accounting, in Group Intervention and in Management, etc.)

First Nations Services:
- Strategies for success
- Counselling services
- Scholarships
- Referrals to community and university services
- First Nations Lounge

Best Choice! Best Price!

MOTO SPORT LA SARRE INC.

427, 2e Rue est
La Sarre, QC
J9Z 2J2

Toll Free 1-866-333-7227

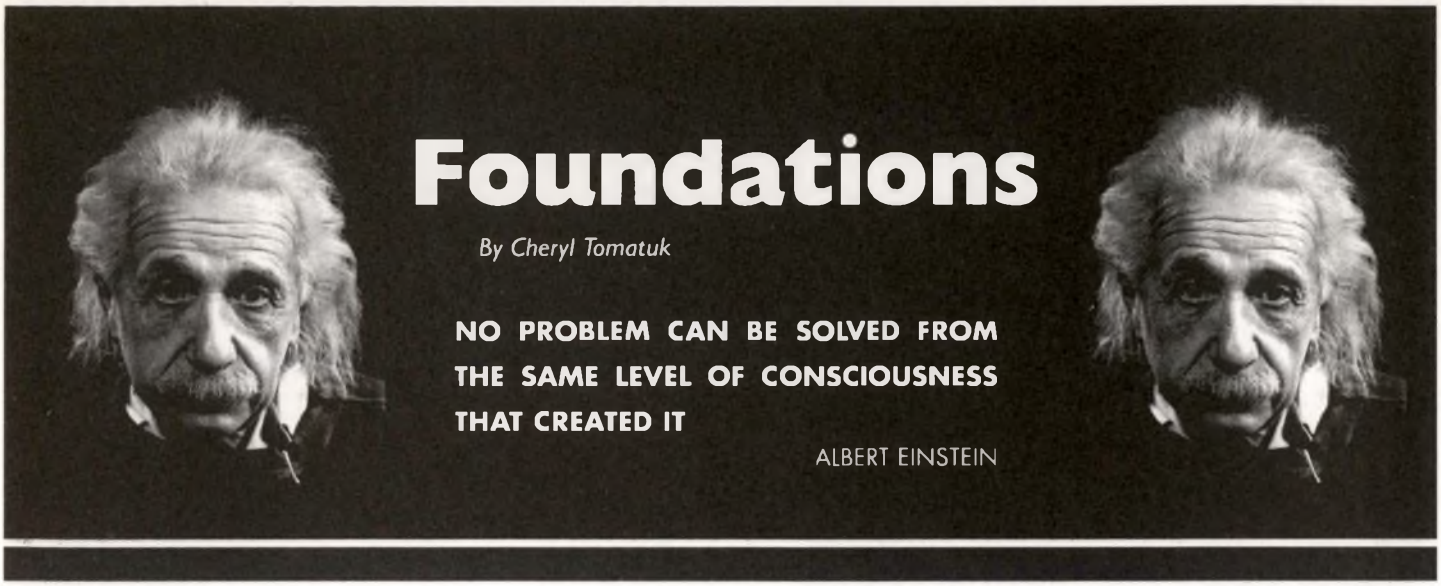
Section pour enfant:

Polaris Pro-X 120 (New)

Arctic Cat Z-120 (New)

Snow Hawks Junior (New)

Arctic Cat (New)	Ski-Doo Tundra (Second Hand)
Polaris (New)	Ski-Doo LT 440 (Second Hand)
Snow Hawk 600 HO (New)	Ski-Doo WT 20" & SWT 24" (Second Hand)



Foundations

By Cheryl Tomatuk

NO PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED FROM THE SAME LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS THAT CREATED IT

ALBERT EINSTEIN

In my travels I always manage to stumble into conversations that have a political undertone. In restaurants, airport terminals, offices or more social settings, it is a common interest for people to discuss the state of our Nation and share their opinions with each other. It would be fair to say that politics intrudes on many aspects of our lives.

One of the greatest thinkers of the past century was Albert Einstein. And while not all of us are interested in the theory of relativity and how physics relates to our everyday living, he was a very practical thinker with simple and inspiring advice. It was Einstein who said, "No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it." Do we need to change some of the systems and behaviours in our communities and give something new a try?

With the development of a Cree constitution underway, now is the time for people to be even more aware of their political ideologies. A constitution can be explained in many ways, from describing the wonderful possibilities it can create to defining what its basic principles entail. It is both simple and complex, but a constitution is, essentially, the foundation of an autonomous government.

If the Cree Nation is taking steps to build a modern economy and propel themselves forward, we need to make sure that as Cree people, as a Nation, that the constitution we adopt becomes something each Cree person can see themselves included in.

We have chosen to adopt a democratic approach to our politics, ensuring we all have a voice. Thinking critically about the issues that affect us defines our participation in the very democratic society we value. Our ability to effect change does not depend on what we have done or what jobs we have. We all have the power to cause change.

We can choose to be great. We do not need a visible position within our communities or governments to speak frankly or write provocatively about the things that matter. Our choices can be the measurement of success, for our governments, for our Nation and for our future.

We need to focus less on the idea that money can fix our problems and more on what we can all offer as members of the Cree Nation. It is not a matter of needing more money, but using our money more efficiently. It's a matter of making sure we are contributing real input, not just inputting our energy to the dispersing of money.

Our public officials do not own their positions; the ownership belongs to our membership. When we don't participate, we affect the democratic process and change its concept. It is our responsibility to educate ourselves. It is not hard; we do it on a regular basis when we talk about these things with our coworkers, our families and friends. Let's take that and do something with it, do something larger.

My theory in life is that there is no set way to do things; if something doesn't work then you change it. If that includes modifying it, improving it or getting rid of it and trying something new, then so be it. On a political scale, that could include re-evaluating everything from status quo working conditions, to fixtures in organizations that do not have anything new to contribute, hindering progress. No disrespect intended, but we cannot solve our problems with the same thinking that was used to create them.

While I have been called everything from feisty to un-diplomatic in my efforts to change the world around me, I have never been one not to ask questions when I have them. In fact, as my mentor points out, I listen too fast and should realize that I do not need to understand everything in the universe. But who doesn't have things they have to work on.

Which begs the question: just who I am to write this column? I am simply one person who cares. I would have to say that Einstein sums it up for me once more by saying, "I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious."

James Bay Cree Telephone Book 2008

Meegwetch!

We here at Beesum Communications would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who generously contributed to updating the new Cree phone book. We could not have done it without you!

Special thanks go out to the Band Council representatives who graciously compiled and updated community telephone listings. Your dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated.

The 2008 Phone Books are in! Please pick up your copy at your community band office.

Please make Cheque or Money Order for
$25.00
(This includes Shipping & Handling)

To:
Beesum Communications
4529 Clark St., bur. 403
Montreal, Qc, H2T 2T3

Please fill in and return with payment:

Order Form

I would like _____ copies of the **James Bay CREE Phone Book** at $25.00 each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Postal Code: _____ **Tel:** _____

Residential School cash attracts scammers

By Amy German

As the cash payouts from the Residential Schools Compensation fund have poured money into aboriginal communities across Canada, con artists and scam operators around the world have closely followed as they now have a new demographic to target, aboriginals.

There have already been several news stories of communities in Western and Central Canada suddenly being approached by salespeople and telemarketers for everything from cars to vacations to loans that sound too good to be true. Even *the Nation* is not immune, having already been approached for a fraudulent puppy scam that is well known to the RCMP. More than ever, this all means it is important to be informed and vigilant.

According to Corporal Louis Robertson of the RCMP's Criminal Intelligence Analytical Unit who works with PhoneBusters, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Call Centre, "If it's too good to be true, guess what? It's a scam."

Cpl. Robertson said the unit is presently monitoring 29 different varieties of scams, not including identity theft frauds.

The largest one running in Canada at the moment involves cheque fraud where individuals are approached either via regular mail, email or telephone and told that they have won some variety of lottery. In it, the targeted individuals will be asked for their personal information, including their Social Insurance Number. From there the individual will be sent a fraudulent cheque, one that may have been made from a stolen corporate cheque from a recognized institution.

The individual is asked to deposit the check at their bank but at the same time send a second cheque to cover the "administrative fees" or "brokerage" or whatever other imaginary fees the scam entails back to the sender, usually totalling around 50 per cent of the amount they have "won."

Of course, the cheque bounces and, said Robertson, "once that money is sent away, they will never see that money again." Having already given away their personal information, the victim may also be victimized a second time around in terms of identity theft.

Lottery scams are not the only game in town as Robertson also warned of many instances where individuals have been targeted for cash from people they have met on Internet dating websites. Though these individuals might seem like the perfect mate at first, they will frequently solicit their victims to help them pay for a visit or for money for a sick relative.

"It is only after they have sucked all of the money out of you, you finally come to the realization that you have been scammed," said Robertson.

"Investment schemes are another one," he said, warning those who will be receiving the settlement funds as "you are going to have to be careful there because people know that they have that money."

If an investment firm that you are unfamiliar with approaches you with promises that sound too good to be true and the example Robertson gave was of something astronomical like a 200 per cent profit, he advises that they be turned away.

"These kinds of returns do not exist. It's impossible to get 200 per cent," he warned.

Robertson advises that those seeking to make investments of any variety should do so through their bank or Caisse populaire and if they are interested in making investments outside of a recognized financial institution, to inquire about the institution through their bank. If your bank advises against it, do not do it under any circumstances. In the same vein, "never, never ever invest money on the Internet," said Robertson.

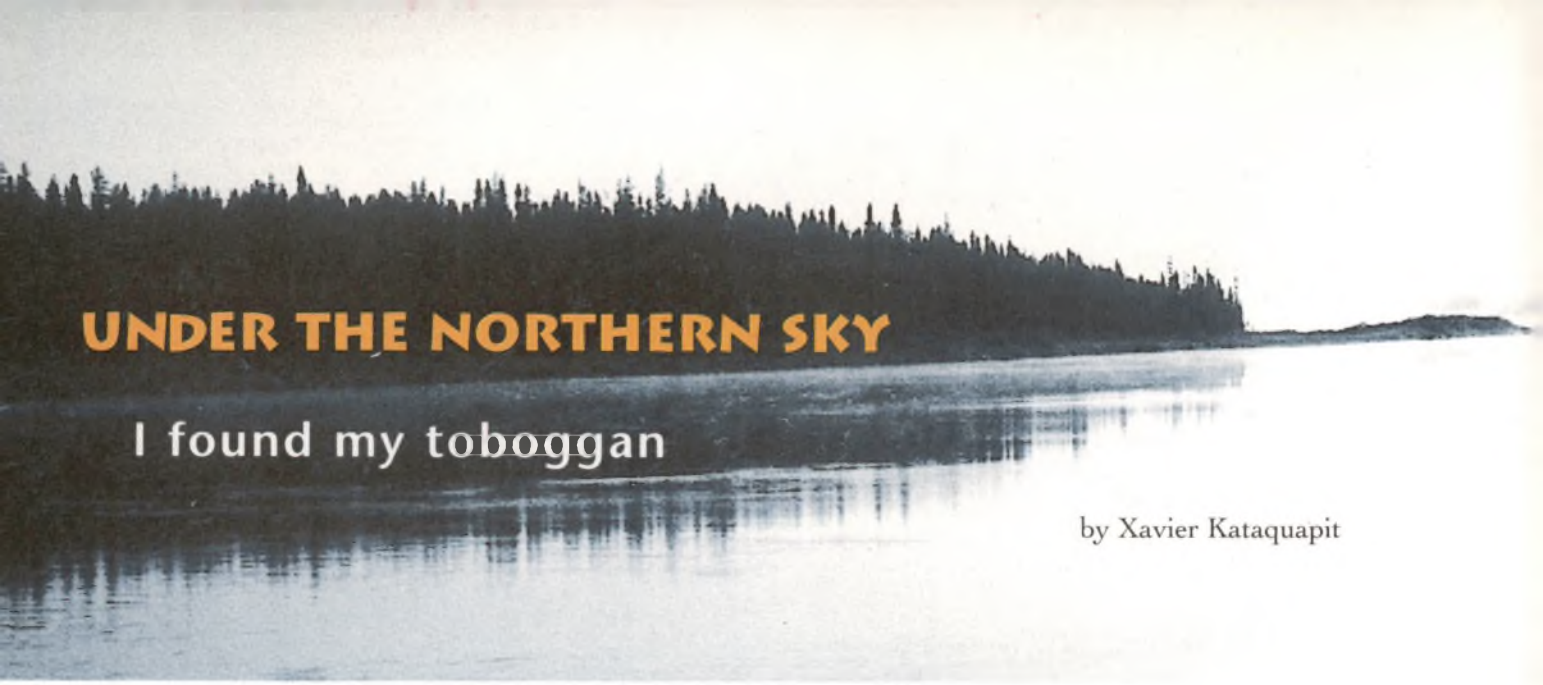
> "These kinds of returns do not exist. It's impossible to get a 200 per cent return."

Even when it comes to investing through someone you do know that is not affiliated with a bank, Robertson advises against it.

He told the story of a local man from Arnprior, Ontario, who started up his own investment firm in the community with the only problem being that he had a gambling problem. "Everyone lost their money because he gambled their shares away," said Robertson.

To contact PhoneBusters to inquire about a particular scam or report one go to www.phonebusters.com or call 1-888-495-8501.

YOU PLAY.
YOU BORROW.
I LOSE.
Do you borrow from your loved ones to solve your gambling problem?
You have everything to gain by asking for help.
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
SUPPORT SERVICE OR CALL
1 800 461-0140
www.DontBetItAll.com
www.cssspnql.com
Québec



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

I found my toboggan

by Xavier Kataquapit

I visited a local hardware store the other day in search of something that I consider to be an important part of my culture, a traditional wooden toboggan with five or six wooden slats laid in a row, strapped together with cross braces and two short chains to tie down the curved front end of the sled.

The old toboggans I remember were well-built sleds capable of hauling heavy loads, but also light enough to pick up and carry. They were made to last for years. What I found in the hardware stores on my toboggan search was a little disappointing. They were built with thin wood, strapped together with tiny braces and secured with staples or finishing nails. It did not take much for me to imagine that after a few hard rides down a large hill these new store-bought toboggans would be kindling.

Children rarely treat these wooden sleds with great care and the hills are usually very rough. I recall many years ago that I and my friends put our toboggans through every test imaginable. We picked the biggest and roughest hills to slide on and we piled people on for the flight down the ice and snow. We were airborne over ramps of snow and inevitably the rush down the slope would end in a crash into a tree or ice drifts. Our toboggans held up very well considering the pounding they took.

When I talk to some of my older non-Native friends, they describe the toboggan as a childhood play thing. I think many of these southern kids were pretty easy on their toboggans compared to the way we used ours. We used toboggans for work and play and often ours would be hand made or at the very least reinforced for extended use. They lasted for years and only succumbed through rough accidents that involved machines or heavy loads. The wood was strong and thick enough to allow for repairs to be made and everything was screwed together.

Along the James Bay coast, the toboggan was also a highly valued tool. When a family purchased or built a toboggan, it was done so to use it for work and to help them survive on the land. Most of the time people did not use the toboggan as a recreational toy. Serious, well-made toboggans were earmarked for hauling goods.

In the 1980s there were many Elders in Attawapiskat who still used wooden toboggans on a regular basis. I can remember my great aunt Barbara (Pappy) walking in the winter with her short four-foot toboggan. I smile now when I think of her trudging through the snow in a dress that she wore over her thick warm pants as she pulled her toboggan behind her. Her feet were bound with moccasins and her head protected by a colourful floral scarf. Her light parka kept most of the cold at bay but it was the energy from her work in hauling that little toboggan that kept her warm.

Even when she was in her 60s and 70s she took her sled out once or twice a week to a nearby lake two kilometres away. At the lake she collected two bags of crystalline snow in blue coloured Canada Post mail bags. This she used as her precious drinking water and to make tea.

Elders all employed the toboggan as it had been for thousands of years to transport things around town. It was frowned upon for us children to take one of these valued objects and play with it. Taking a toboggan from an Elder for mere play would have been the same as stealing any vehicle. Much of the tobogganing I did as a child was done on cheaper store-bought sleds. We thought twice about ever taking an Elder's personal toboggan out for fun.

In my own recent search for a toboggan I visited many flea markets and antique dealers in southern Ontario. I found a few that were scarred with years of providing fun for children. It seems that the old time toboggan is a thing of the past. Happily, I purchased one that was not too beat up and I plan on bringing it back to life. I can hardly wait for my first rush down a snow-covered hill surrounded by pine trees and curious ravens. I have found my toboggan.

Call for candidates

Société de développement de la Baie-James

Encampment Manager

The Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ) is a Quebec Crown Corporation entirely dedicated to the economic development of James Bay. The corporation's mission is to promote economic development as well as development and use of natural resources other than hydro-electric resources in a context of sustainable development.

The position: Reporting to the Director of Economic Development, the Encampment Manager will manage the truck stop at KM 381 including lodging, cafeteria, service station, convenience store and maintenance of the encampment. The manager is also responsible preparing and managing budgets for these services.

Requirements: The ideal candidate has a DEC in management and two (2) years experience managing an isolated encampment. Candidates with equivalent education or experience may also be considered.

Location: 381 KM truck stop, James Bay Highway.

Salary and working conditions: The current salary scale ranges from $57,393 to $73,470 plus benefits. The normal work schedule is 28 consecutive work days of 9.5 hours each, followed by 14 days off.

Deadline: Candidates must submit their application and CV by January 27, 2008 to the address below:

M[s] Nadia Boucher
Société de développement de la Baie-James
110, boul. Matagami, C.P. 970
Matagami (Québec) J0Y 2A0
email : nadia.boucher@sdbj.gouv.qc.ca
Telephone: 819 739-4717, ext. 253
Fax: 819 739-5021, day or 739-4329, evening

Québec
For employment equity

Important information: Please write "Encampment Manager" on your envelope. We thank all those who apply. Only those selected for further consideration will be contacted. All applications will remain confidential.

EAT WELL. LIVE LONGER.
learn more at heartandstroke.ca

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT.™
HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION
Finding answers. For life.

This space has been generously donated.

ERASE THE EFFECTS OF STROKE.
learn more at heartandstroke.ca

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT.™
HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION
Finding answers. For life.

This space has been generously donated.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Isaac Iserhoff Sr. on January 15. Hope your day is as special as you are! We love you and miss you. Your wife Tina and your Son Isaac Jr.

Happy 3rd Birthday to our Grandson Sydney Mark on Jan.11/08 and many more tocome. Love always, Googoo and Papa Mark.

We would like to wish a Happy 3rd Birthday to our wonderful boy Sydney Mark on Jan.11/08. Hope you have a blast on your special day, li'l man. Love you tons xoxoxoxoxoxox, from Mom & Dad.

Wishing our daddy cool, Johnny Salt, a very Happy Birthday on January 14th..with all the love our little hearts can give, your son Jaedon and daughters JoAnne n JoAnna..and mommy too, xoxoxo.

Wishing my auntie Lorna Blackned a very Happy Birthday on January 30th..LUV U LOTS! Your namesake JoAnna Salt..and also from my brother n' sister Jaedon n JoAnne. Save me a piece of cake too, PLZZ.

Happy Birthday! to Buckley Voyageur on January 24. I love you and wish you a wonderful birthday. I also want to say happy anniversary too on January 12, when we first got together. We have been together for 10 years now. I still love you and always will. Love Valerie.

He's an angel, a dreamer,
An explorer, and a climber of trees.
Who tears his best pants, and
tracks up my floors.

He's a solemn young man with
some mud on his feet,
And a daredevil riding his
bike down the street.

A bundle of questions, who
wants to know "why",
The world goes around and
the stars fill the sky.

But adventurous, timid, excited
or quiet,
There's nothing so new that he
won't care to try it.

And just when my temper and
patience wear thin,
He'll look up at me with an
innocent grin.

And my heart melts again with pride and joy,
In that mischievous, wonderful
treasure--- my boy!!

We would like to wish a happy 5th birthday to our one and only son Benjamin Myson Germain Walter Capissisit. He'll be celebrating his birthday on Jan.7 We love you son so much and hope you day is filled with happiness and joy as much as you fill our everyday lives. From Mommy & Daddy (Germain & Angela)

There's two to wash
There's two to dry,
There's two who argue
There's two who cry.

One's in the mud
Having a ball
The other holds a crayon
Another marked wall.

Some days seem endless
My patience grows thin.
Why was I chosen
To be a Mother of Twins?

The answer comes clear
At the end of each day,
As I tuck them in bed
And to myself I say.

There's two to kiss
There's two to hug.
And best of all
There's two to love.

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my twin daughters Kimora-Lee Winter & Kimisha-Ann Snow Capissisit. They were born on December 21, 2005. I love you guys so much. Seems like yesterday when I found out that I was carrying twins. You truly are my double blessings. Now you guys are running around, climbing on the table & chairs, getting into my unmentionables, and spilling things all over. My terrible two times two!! I love you guys so much and being with you two is truly a remarkable thing. From your mommy, Angela (Wask.).

HOLIDAY GREETINGS – 301

I would like to wish my husband, Henry Cooper and my children, Nicole & Sarah Cooper, Dion Mianscum and his girlfriend, Leeanne Bosum and to my very special grand-daughter, Chantal Bosum a wonderful Christmas. I wish you all the best of wishes in the New Year. Take care and I love you all. Margo in Ouje.

Merry Christmas to all my special friends and sisters in the Cree Nation: In Whapmagoostui, Shirley Sandy and Children and Nancy Sheshamush. In Chisasibi, Daisy House, Christine Cookish, Brenda Sam, Margaret Pachano & all their families. In Eastmain, Bessie Tomatuk. In Mistissini, Philomene Mianscum and Marlene Matoush and their families. Also, to a very special woman, Deacon Annie Herodier. Wishes to Nellie Pachanos, Helen Serafinowicz, Nellie Coonishish, William Kitchen, Edward Rabbitskin and all their families. Merry Christmas to all of you and a very Happy New Year 2008. God Bless you all, from Margo in Ouje.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMNETS

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out our website at: www.nwsm.info and feel free to give us any feedback.

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call Kid's Help Phone's toll-free at: 1-800-668-6868, or visit: www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca.

Nation UP-COMING SPECIAL EDITIONS

Vol. 15-06
Cover date: February 1
Deadline: January 18
Education

Vol. 15-10
Cover date: March 28
Deadline: March 21
Career

Take advantage of these theme editions to promote your business, organizations, event, to send a message, or to be seen...
If any Cree businesses or oganizations know about an upcoming related event or news, please contact *the Nation* for a news brief or advertising.

Advertising:
ads@beesum-communications.com
News: news@beesum.ca
the Nation Production Office:
Tel: 514-272-3077
Fax: 514-278-9914

HONDA de Val-d'Or

1720, 3rd Avenue, Val-d'Or
Tel: 819-825-7838
Fax: 819-825-8855
Toll free: 1-877-525-7838

www.hondadevaldor.ca
Roadside Assistance 1-800-465-7587

Honda de Val-d'Or's "Win your purchase!" event

Until April 30th inclusively, Honda de Val-d'Or is the only Honda dealer to offer you the chance to win your purchase!

Everyone who purchases or leases a new or used vehicle of a value of $5,000.00 and more, will be entered in a draw to win a prize of the equivalent of the amount spent at our dealership, up to $50,000.00!

In addition, we offer an interest rate of 0.9% for up to 60 months on our 2008 Ridgeline and 8-Passenger Pilot, OR a rebate of $5,000.00 and $5,500.00 respectively.

We want to thank everyone who helped make 2007 the best year in our 29 year history!

Who will be the lucky one?

Pilot 2004 Granite Edition
Only 42,000km
DVD player
Honda warrranty of 160,000km
$24,750.00

*SAVE $450 on our generators.

$200.00 on EU 1000IC and $450.00 on EU 2000IC models

GRADUATE PROGRAM

Recent university or college graduates may be eligible for an allowance of up to $750.00 on certain models. See participating Honda Dealers for complete details.

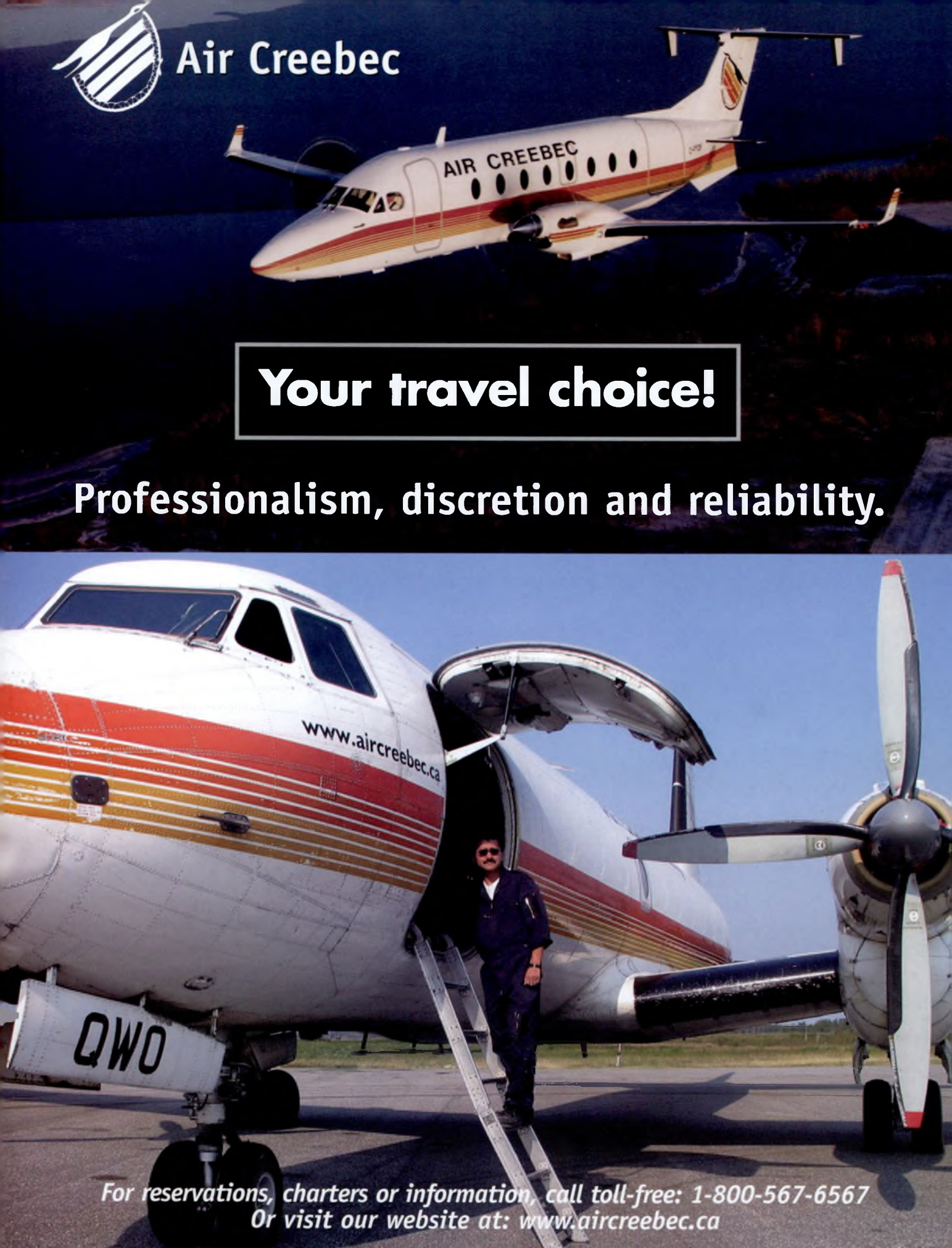
TOP SAFETY PICK 2007
INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

COMPLIMENTARY FILL-UP

All new Honda vehicles are delivered with a full tank.

FIVE YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM

Beesum
communications
Did you know?
You can be cost efficient
Outsource work with peace of mind
Posters
Printing
Syllabics
Publicity
Brochures
Pamphlets
Newsletters
Web design
Translation
Photography
Logo creation
Business cards
Annual reports
Writing and editing
Marketing solutions
Marketing consultation
Publication and production
Researching and reporting
Film and video production
4529 Clark, Suite 403, Montréal, QC H2T 2T3 T: 514-272-3077 F: 514-278-9914
www.beesum-communications.com beesum@beesum-communications.com
First Nations First for Supplies and Services


Air Creebec
AIR CREEBEC
Your travel choice!
Professionalism, discretion and reliability.
www.aircreebec.ca
QWO
For reservations, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567
Or visit our website at: www.aircreebec.ca